Statement by the Chair of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on the Analysis of the

Request for extension submitted by South Sudan

Mr. President (Chair),

The Committee on Article 5 Implementation welcomes the efforts made by South Sudan in the preparation of its extension request, which have allowed for a cooperative dialogue to take place between South Sudan and the Committee.

The Committee also welcomes the comments on this request provided by expert organizations, including from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, UNMAS, Mines Advisory Group, Mine Action Review and the GICHD.

- On 27 March 2020 South Sudan submitted to the Committee on Article 5 Implementation a request for an extension of its Article 5 implementation deadline.

- Following dialogue with the Committee, South Sudan submitted a revised request on 21 August 2020.

- South Sudan's request is for 5 years, until 9 July 2026.

In analysing South Sudan's submission, I would like to share some key points on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee noted the progress made by South Sudan in addressing the challenges faced by anti-personnel mines including its use of land release methodologies that have significantly reduced its remaining challenge. In this regard, the Committee noted the importance of South Sudan keeping its national mine action standards up to date in accordance with the latest IMAS, adapting them to new challenges and employing best practices to ensure efficient and effective implementation.

The Committee noted the difficulties faced by South Sudan in information management and noted the importance of maintaining a national information management system containing accurate and up-to date data at the national level on the status of implementation.

The Committee noted the importance of South Sudan implementing context-specific mine risk education in mine affected communities.

The Committee noted the request includes a detailed costed work and multi-year work plan for the extension period. The Committee also noted that in order to achieve the projected milestones given in the work plan, organisations currently working in support of South Sudan will need to reconfigure their personnel to form larger teams to clear ground more efficiently.

In recalling that the implementation of South Sudan's national demining plan may be affected by security-related access restrictions and the continued impact of COVID-19, and noting that the sector will require minor configurations to enable more efficient clearance of minefields, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from South Sudan submitting to the Committee periodic updated detailed work plans with the first of these being submitted by 30 April 2022, and the second by 30 April 2024, for the remaining period covered by the extension. The Committee noted that these work plans should contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines using terminology consistent with IMAS, annual projections of which areas and what area would

be dealt with during the remaining period covered by the request and by which organisation, matched to a revised detailed budget.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the information provided in the request and subsequently in responses to the Committee's questions is comprehensive, complete and clear.

In this regard, the Committee noted that the Convention would benefit from South Sudan reporting annually, by 30 April, to the States Parties on the following:

a. Progress made relative to the commitments contained in South Sudan's annual survey and clearance plan during the extension period, providing information in a manner consistent with IMAS on the remaining challenges, disaggregating by 'suspected hazardous areas' and 'confirmed hazardous areas' and their relative size, as well as by the type of contamination and in accordance with the land release methodology employed (i.e. cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey, or cleared through clearance);

b. The impact of annual progress on annual targets as given in South Sudan's work plan including adjusted milestones with information on the number of areas and amount of mined area to be addressed annually and how priorities have been established;

c. Progress on security-related access restrictions and potential positive or negative impacts regarding re-survey and clearance of mined areas;

d. Efforts made to reconfigure their personnel to form larger teams and the results of these efforts;

e. Updates regarding the development and implementation of a detailed, costed and multi-year plan for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities including information on the methodologies used, the challenges faced and the results achieved, with information disaggregated by gender and age;

f. Updates regarding the structure of South Sudan's mine action program, including existing and new organisational and institutional capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion; and

g. Resource mobilisation efforts, external financing received and resources made available by the government of South Sudan to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.

The Committee noted the importance, in addition to South Sudan reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at intersessional meetings, Meetings of the States Parties and Review Conferences as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide for Reporting.